

Hawaii-Okinawa Partnership on Clean and Efficient Energy Development and Deployment

The Third Taskforce Meeting in the framework of the ‘Hawaii-Okinawa Partnership on Clean and Efficient Energy Development and Deployment’ which was established based on the U.S.-Japan Cooperation on Clean Energy Technologies was held on June 3rd via video conference. Japanese participants included the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the Prefecture of Okinawa, the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), while U.S. participants included the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE), the Department of State (DOS), and the State of Hawaii. At the meeting, participants took note of the progress of the Hawaii-Okinawa cooperation and formulated a Work Program which includes specific cooperative activities.

- ① The United States and Japan will cooperate on the Maui smart grid demonstration project (*) which aims to establish a smart community model for remote island clean energy.
- ② Both countries will conduct energy audits to a building in Okinawa and in Hawaii by a team of U.S. and Japanese experts as soon as possible.
- ③ In order to enhance people-to-people exchange between the Prefecture of Okinawa and the State of Hawaii and to nurture expertise on energy efficient buildings suited for subtropical areas, the Prefecture of Okinawa will dispatch its staff to State of Hawaii.

(*) On Maui Island, a smart grid demonstration project conducted with the support of the U.S. DOE is under way. METI and NEDO, in cooperation with other entities, will implement a demonstration project next to the site. Japan and the United States plan to coordinate the two demonstrations to make it a world leading smart grid demonstration.

1. Background

The U.S and Japanese leaders agreed to cooperate in clean energy development and issued the “FACT SHEET: U.S.-Japan. Cooperation on Clean Energy Technologies” in November 2009 (Reference (1)).

On June 17, 2010, the Memorandum of Cooperation among USDOE, METI, the State of Hawaii and the Prefecture of Okinawa Creating the Hawaii-Okinawa Partnership on Clean and Efficient Energy Development and Deployment was signed by the four parties. It aims to create and disseminate sustainable clean energy information and models useful for islands globally (Reference (2)).

From August 22 to September 4, 2010, a delegation composed of government officials and experts from both the United States and Japan visited Okinawa and Hawaii to tour clean energy-related facilities, consult with appropriate people in the private sector and research institutions as well as held a taskforce meeting to study and discuss how the cooperation should take place. (Reference

(3)).

At this taskforce meeting, participants identified four areas of cooperation, Energy Efficient Buildings, Smart Grid, Renewables and People-to-People Exchange, and established working groups to implement cooperation in these areas.

From 20th to 21st October, 2010, the U.S.-Japan Workshop on Net Zero Energy Buildings (ZEB) in Subtropical Areas was held in Nago City, Okinawa, and a first roundtable on People-to-People Exchange was held with the participation of people involved in Hawaii-Okinawa cooperation from public and private sectors as well as academia. (Reference (4))

On 17th November, 2010, a workshop which focused on ocean thermal energy organized by the Prefecture of Okinawa etc. was held on Kumejima Island, Okinawa.

On 3rd December, 2011, second roundtable for the People-to-People Exchange was held in Honolulu.

In February 2011, NEDO began its solicitation of proposals for a smart grid project in Maui Island under the framework of Hawaii-Okinawa cooperation and, in May, decided on its participants for the feasibility study of the smart grid project.

2. Outline of the Work Program

- (1) Energy Efficient Buildings: A bilateral energy expert team composed by U.S. and Japanese experts will evaluate a building in Okinawa and in Hawaii, and reports will be shared.
- (2) Smart Grid: Both the U.S. and Japanese government as well as the Prefecture of Okinawa and the State of Hawaii will promote cooperation through smart grid demonstrations in Miyako, Okinawa and Maui Island, Hawaii.
- (3) Renewables: Promoting information exchange of renewable energy including ocean energy such as Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC).
- (4) People-to-People Exchange: The work program includes: the dispatching of staff from Okinawa Prefectural government to Hawaii to nurture expertise on energy efficient buildings, implementing a joint online project on energy efficiency and promoting cooperation among academia as well as utility related companies of Okinawa and Hawaii.

The Work Program will be reviewed annually and additional activities can be included as mutually agreed.

References:

(1) FACT SHEET: Japan-U.S. Cooperation on Clean Energy Technologies

http://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/energy_environment/global_warming/e20091113a01.html

(2) Signature of Memorandum of Cooperation between Okinawa and Hawaii on Clean Energy Development and Implementation

http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/data/20100617_02.html

(3) Japanese and U.S. Experts to visit Okinawa and Hawaii for Okinawa -Hawaii Clean and Efficient Energy Partnership

http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/data/20100820_02.html

(4) Japan-U.S. Workshop on Net Zero Energy Buildings (ZEB) in Subtropical Areas

http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/data/20101018_01.html

(5) Participants Selected for a Feasibility Study of a Smart Grid Project in Hawaii

<http://www.nedo.go.jp/content/100144431.pdf>

Release Date

METI Divisions in Charge

-Energy Efficiency and Conservation Division, Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy Department, Agency for Natural Resources and Energy

-Americas Division, Trade Policy Bureau